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5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

EVAN MACY, SPORTS EDITOR

I want to personally, and with great love and appreciation, thank the regular readers of Metro who peruse the sports section. Those pages have been my domain, my life's work and my pride for the last four and a half years with this company, and I have enjoyed every second of working here. Whether you read us on the web, on the subway or on the street corner, it's been an incredible stretch in the history of Philly sports with both highs and lows, and I am honored to have been able to do this job in this incredible city. I look forward to my new chapter but will be bidding Metro adieu. Thanks for the memories and follow me on Twitter @evan_macy.

TRUMP PICK MAY WITHDRAW AMID NEW ALLEGATIONS

1 White House doctor Ronny Jackson has told colleagues he may withdraw as President Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday. Citing two White House officials with knowledge of his deliberations, the Post said Jackson has grown frustrated with the nomination process. Jackson has faced allegations of questionable drug prescriptions, drunkenness and creating a hostile work environment. The explosive new allegations against Trump's nominee to lead the federal government's second-largest agency were compiled in a document by Democratic staff on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. They said he prescribed himself medications, got drunk at a Secret Service party, wrecked a government vehicle and once could not be reached on a work trip to provide medical treatment because he was passed out drunk in a hotel room, according to the summary. The department has long been under fire for the quality of healthcare it provides veterans, a group that carries considerable political clout. Jackson had been set for a Senate confirmation hearing for the job on Wednesday, which was postponed.

FACEBOOK'S NUMBERS RISE AFTER SCANDALS

2 Facebook Inc. shares rose on Wednesday after the social network reported a surprisingly strong 63 percent rise in profit and an increase in users, with no sign that business was hurt by a scandal over the mishandling of personal data. After easily beating Wall Street expectations, shares traded up 7.1 percent, paring a monthlong decline that began with Facebook's disclosure in March that consultancy Cambridge Analytica had harvested data belonging to millions of users. The Cambridge Analytica scandal, affecting up to 87 million users and prompting several apologies from Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg, generated calls for regulation and for users to leave the social network, but there was no indication advertisers immediately changed their spending. "Everybody keeps talking about how bad things are for Facebook, but this earnings report to me is very positive, and reiterates that Facebook is fine, and they'll get through this," said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company. Facebook said monthly active users in the first quarter rose to 2.2 billion, up 13 percent from a year earlier and matching expectations, according to Thomson Reuters.

ACTIVISTS WEIGH IN ON TRAVEL BAN AT SUPREME COURT

3 Activists rally against the Trump travel ban on the day the Supreme Court hears arguments in Hawaii v. Trump in front of the court in Washington, D.C., on April 25, 2018. President Donald Trump's effort to ban immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries headed to the Supreme Court Wednesday, which will decide if his argument asserting national security interests was tainted by religious bias. The case, known as Trump v. Hawaii, will address the president's broad powers to set immigration policy, which the administration says permit Trump's travel ban, one of his hallmark policies since taking office in January 2017.

GETTY IMAGES

LAWYER COHEN WILL TAKE 5TH IN DANIELS CASE

4 President Donald Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen said on Wednesday he would assert his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in connection with a lawsuit filed by adult-film star Stormy Daniels, who says she had an affair with Trump. In a filing in Los Angeles federal court, Cohen said he decided to invoke his constitutional right after the FBI raided his home, office and hotel room two weeks ago. The FBI search was partly a referral by the Office of Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, who is investigating alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign. Russia denies meddling in the election and Trump has denied any collusion. Last month, Daniels sued Trump and Cohen to end a nondisclosure agreement related to a $130,000 payment she received from Cohen before the 2016 election to keep quiet about her alleged one-night stand with Trump. Cohen has asked for the Daniels' case to be put on hold for 90 days. At a hearing last week, District Judge James Otero said he needed more time to review the request for a stay, but he told Cohen's attorney "there's some gaping holes" in the request.

KANYE SHATTERS TWITTER SILENCE WITH POLITICS

5 Kanye West said on Wednesday that he had fired his manager and suggested he may run for U.S. president in a frenetic Twitter spree in which he promised four new albums and compared himself to Henry Ford and Walt Disney. The rapper and fashion designer, 40, who has emerged from a year's Twitter silence, also praised President Donald Trump, saying that he might not agree with him on everything but "the mob can't make me not love him. We are both dragon energy. He is my brother." Trump later tweeted, "Thank you Kanye, very cool!" In the past 10 days, West has had a spate of Twitter posts, sometimes weighing in as often as 20 times an hour. West was admitted to a psychiatric facility in 2016 and canceled a tour after a week of no-shows, curtailed concerts and political rants. He has since adopted a low public profile. West, who in 2015 said he was considering running for the White House, also tweeted simply "2024." "When we become president, we have to change the name of the plane from Air Force One to Yeezy Force One," he added, referring to his Yeezy fashion line. ***Read more about Kanye West and the presidency on pages 12-13.***

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Residents and members of Councilwoman Cindy Bass' trash task force surveyed widespread dumping in the Logan Triangle. ALL PHOTOS SAM NEWHOUSE

Councilwoman says blatant Logan Triangle dumping must be stopped

Members of Councilwoman Cindy Bass' trash task force surveying Logan Triangle on Wednesday were shocked to see a city contractor dump materials in front of them.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

City Councilwoman Cindy Bass is looking for some names. On Wednesday, while the 8th District Councilwoman's Trash Task Force was surveying the abandoned, blighted Logan Triangle with neighbors, they saw a contractor brazenly dumping materials right in front of them — then defend himself by saying he works for the city. In response, Bass planned to call an emergency meeting Thursday morning with every city agency that might be paying people who dump their garbage on city land.

"I'm really furious this happened, and that this is possibly people who are being paid by city tax dollars who are dumping in our neighborhoods," Bass said. "I'm just really shocked that they'd be so blatant as to be dumping right in front of people, but that just goes to show how out of control dumping and the lack of respect for our neighborhoods is. … Some neighborhoods are just considered dumping grounds, and that's OK. It would never happen in Chestnut Hill or Mt. Airy."

With 35 acres of unused land off of Roosevelt Boulevard, made up mostly of coal ash fill and deemed uninhabitable since houses had sunk and a gas line exploded in the '80s, the Logan Triangle has been a dumping ground for years. While locals have clamored for enforcement and organized clean-ups, any progress is quickly covered up by new piles of garbage, they said. Bass' plan to stop the madness is simple: name and shame those responsible.

"Look for us to begin publicly shaming, humiliating, embarrassing and naming anybody who disrespects our neighborhoods," Bass said. "If we find a contractor who is doing this, we're going to work extra hard to make sure they never get a city contract again."

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Wednesday, residents who joined Bass' Trash Task Force bemoaned the fate of what some recalled as a once vibrant neighborhood, but one unfortunately built on a coal ash landfill used to cover over the former Wingohocking Creek bed. It was declared uninhabitable and residents left en masse in the '80s.

"Thirty-something years, nothing has been done," said Cecil Hankins of the Logan Community Development Corporation (CDC). "A lot dumped on by contractors, this is what the neighborhood has become."

Sandra Harmon, an outreach coordinator at Nicetown CDC, lives on 11th Street by the Triangle and said she sees new loads of tires, debris and construction materials pop up overnight, and the city has been unable to stop the problem.

"It's as if they didn't do anything. There's no enforcement," she said. "Until a few people get caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, it's laughable."

Residents and Task Force members discussed ideas ranging from security cameras to getting tag numbers off dumpers and additional lighting to possibly removing the concrete barriers around the Triangle, intended to keep dumpers out, but which residents said dumpers instead use to hide their trash.

"One time, there was so much trash, it was all over, couches, beds, clothes, we couldn't even get through to the church, it was impassable," said Pastor William James Scott III of Harold O. Davis Memorial Baptist, which is adjacent to the triangle. "Members of the church were down and depressed. Some came to me crying, saying, 'There is no respect for the church.'"

"I'm just really shocked that they'd be so blatant as to be dumping right in front of people ..."
City Councilwoman Cindy Bass

Rev. Raul Leduc of Iglesia Sion Church, on the other side of the triangle, agreed and said his church has also been victimized.

"They don't care where they dump. They come at night, make a quick drop and get out," he said. "We've been calling the city for 10, 15 years now."

The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA) acquired the Triangle in 2012. The Goldenberg Group was identified as a possible residential developer of the site in 2015. The PRA will bring a new Logan Triangle redevelopment plan, which includes a permanent home for Philadelphia Youth Basketball to the City Planning Commission in May.

But some residents questioned the possible value of new rental units to the area, like Marion Johnson and daughter Tori Johnson, both of the Logan CDC.

"That's not going to benefit the neighborhood," Tori Johnson said. "That's not going to build wealth in the black community."

Bass said she would work with the community on finding a suitable development, but in the meantime, she wants to keep the trash out.

"It's become an eyesore and then some for people who feel they can just do whatever," Bass said. "While it's not developed, it doesn't have to be a dumping ground."

HISTORY OF AN ASH HEAP

Logan Triangle is bordered by 6th and 11th streets, with Loudon Street to the north and Roosevelt Boulevard to the south. Once occupied by nearly 1,000 homes, it has been abandoned for nearly three decades since a gas line blew, and authorities determined the coal ash fill and debris the land was made up of weren't safe enough for residential use.

It was originally occupied by the Wingohocking Creek, an instrumental component of the local watershed. But the creek was encased in pipes and turned into a sewer in the 19th century. In the 1920s, homes were built atop the fill over the creek, but homes began sinking, and after a gas explosion in 1986, the city used $38 million, mostly in federal funding, to buy some 950 homes while compensating and relocating roughly 5,000 residents. The last structure on the triangle was razed in 2001. It is one of the largest open-air vacant lots in Philadelphia.

Writer Ken Finkel of Philly History Blog called Logan Triangle "a 35-acre, no-man, no-house zone, a monument to a century of greed, ineptitude and failure, the likes of which is unprecedented in urban history."

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Jennair Gerardot, left, of Wilmington, Delaware, shot and killed her husband's alleged mistress, Meredith Sullivan, police said. PROVIDED

Alleged affair was motive behind Radnor murder-suicide, say cops

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> "You had a man that was married that was having an affair with this other woman. The wife knew about it, and this was a calculated, planned attack."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan@metro.us

A Radnor murder-suicide that claimed the lives of two women — Meredith Chapman and Jennair Gerardot — was motivated by an alleged marital affair, police said Wednesday.

Chapman, 33, had an affair with Gerardot's husband, according to investigators. After Gerardot, 47, found out about the alleged affair, she traveled from her Wilmington home and broke into Chapman's Lowrys Lane home. When Chapman walked through the door, she shot her to death before turning the gun on herself, ABC 6 reported.

"You had a man that was married that was having an affair with this other woman. The wife knew about it, and this was a calculated, planned attack," said Police Superintendent William Colarulo. "There were emails and text messages indicating what she planned to do, and the detectives are still sorting that out."

Detectives believe Gerardot donned a disguise during her journey by train from Delaware to Radnor.

Gerardot's husband, Mark Gerardot, reportedly discovered Chapman was missing when she didn't show up for a date that night. He went to Chapman's home only to discover both her body and that of his wife. When police arrived, Mark Gerardot was outside the home, WaPo reported. "My wife might be inside," he told police.

Chapman was also married; since 2009, Chapman was the wife of Newark City Councilman Luke Chapman. Chapman worked with Mark Gerardot, a marketing professional, when she was employed at the University of Delaware.

"Meredith was a beacon of light to anyone who was fortunate enough to meet her," a representative for the Chapman family said in a statement to the News Journal. "She loved her family fiercely, was a compassionate friend and among the most talented and innovative professionals in her field. Her death was sudden and tragic, but will not define who she was to the thousands of people who loved her. Her family is devastated, heartbroken and requests privacy and respect as they grieve."

> **"There were emails and text messages indicating what she planned to do, and the detectives are still sorting that out."**
> Police Superintendent William Colarulo

Neighbors on the first blocks of Lowrys Lane, near Villanova University, called police at 7:05 p.m. Monday after hearing shots fired. The News Journal reported that Chapman had just moved into the house last week. She had started a new job as assistant vice president at Villanova University. In 2016, Chapman ran against state Sen. Dave Sokola, D-Newark, but lost by five percentage points.

Got a warrant? Get free advice, same-day hearing at Safe Return

At podium, Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker discusses Safe Return, with, from left, FJD President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Municipal Court President Judge Marsha Neifield, and Rev. Alyn Waller of Enon Tabemacle Baptist Church.
COURTESY OF FJD

The Philadelphia court system is again offering a three-day period when Philadelphians with outstanding warrants can choose to surrender, get free advice from a defense lawyer and "favorable consideration," the courts said.

"Safe Return is an opportunity for anyone with certain outstanding warrants to voluntarily surrender and receive favorable consideration in the process," said the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD) President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, who announced the program at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, which will host the event, along with Mayor Jim Kenney and other leaders, on Tuesday. "It is anticipated that most of those who voluntarily surrender are likely to go home that same day."

There are about 38,000 outstanding bench warrants in Philadelphia and 9,000 probation courts and there is no limit to how many can be served during Safe Return. Those with outstanding warrants issued by either the Court of Common Pleas, Municipal Court (including Traffic Division) or State Parole are eligible to get hearings that same day if they come to the event. Typically, these types of warrants involve a period of incarceration before hearings are conducted. All will have a chance to speak with a defense attorney before they choose to surrender.

"Our church stands ready to serve as a sanctuary for healing and to help people straighten out their lives and begin anew," said Reverend Dr. Alyn E. Waller, senior pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, which will be open May 1-3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, for Philadelphia Safe Return.

"People make mistakes — that's why we're human," Waller said. "This is an opportunity to take the necessary steps to address the mistakes and make things right to begin rebuilding their lives."

"Safe Return is an opportunity for anyone with certain outstanding warrants to voluntarily surrender and receive favorable consideration in the process."
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD) President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper

Not all warrants are eligible for Safe Return. Those with family court probation or bench warrants, for both adults and juveniles, are advised to go to Family Court (1501 Arch St.), and it is not intended for those with active arrest warrants, whom the court advised to surrender at local police districts.

But social services, addiction services, housing support and other types of outreach providers will be present at Safe Return to help citizens.

The last time such a program was offered was in 2008, and more than 1,000 people turned themselves in over four days. The FJD said the "overwhelming majority received favorable dispositions or new court dates."

The program, for people with warrants who want to turn themselves in, runs May 1-3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2800 West Cheltenham Ave., in East Mount Airy.

The program is not intended for juveniles, and parents/guardians are asked to not bring any children. A shuttle from Olney Transportation Center will be available. ID is not required.

For more information, call 267-765-6898, or visit phlsafereturn.wordpress.com. SAM NEWHOUSE

First state-approved Philly marijuana vendor has announced its location

The first location of a Philadelphia marijuana facility has been announced, and it's right in the heart of the Gayborhood.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

The weather may have been drizzly and misty, but the sun began shinning on Center City Philadelphians in dire need of legal medical marijuana as soon as a "coming soon" sign went up Wednesday morning at 1206 Sansom St.: the location of the first Philly-based state-approved medical cannabis dispensary.

Approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and owned/operated by the Colorado-based Beyond/Hello, the spacious 1,500-square-foot dispensary — set to open this fall — will offer medical cannabis products, including infused oils, tinctures, capsules, topicals and more.

Beyond/Hello also works in partnership with Philadelphia's Rothman Institute at Jefferson (one of North America's largest orthopedic practices), and this is the first fruit of a collaboration geared toward investigating the benefits of medical marijuana for area patients suffering from chronic and acute pain.

"Beyond/Hello hopes to be a valued resource and a trusted provider/dispensary for any certified doctor to refer their patients to," said Blythe Huestis, president of Beyond/Hello.

For this Arizona-transplant who just recently moved to the area, it is exciting for Huestis that Mayor Jim Kenney and Philadelphia City Council have enacted policies to help pro-pot Philadelphians with medical needs. Pennsylvania is also but one of a fleeting few states that require a licensed pharmacist at each of its dispensaries.

There are medical marijuana dispensaries that have opened throughout Pennsylvania providing cannabis patients with 17 qualifying health conditions.

Before this downtown Philly dispensary, Huestis opened three other cannabis dispensaries across the United States.

"Pennsylvania seemed as if it was set to become a strong program," Huestis said Wednesday morning after first publicly announcing the store's location. "We will soon find out that this is true and I am anxious to get started in Philadelphia."

Huestis also noted the importance of the Beyond/Hello Center City dispensary as it offers convenience to those downtown dwellers who can't get to other parts of Philly (state licenses were granted for additional dispensaries set to open in Fishtown across from the Fillmore Philadelphia, in Northeast Philly at Krewstown Road, and in South Philly, along Packer Avenue).

Medical marijuana sales have strong support

A passerby scopes out the just-announced location of Philly's first medical marijuana store, Beyond/Hello. COURTESY OF BEYOND/HELLO

"The opening of medical cannabis dispensaries in Philadelphia will make critical treatments more accessible to patients in need."

Mayor Jim Kenney

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from some legislators as a possible new source of state revenue.

"Legalizing cannabis is the right thing to do for our city and the Commonwealth," Mayor Jim Kenney said in a statement. "The opening of medical cannabis dispensaries in Philadelphia will make critical treatments more accessible to patients in need. The program is also creating attractive jobs and the resulting tax revenue will fund important programs that improve our city and Commonwealth."

State Rep. Brian Sims, (D-Philly), chimed in with, "Beyond/Hello will bring compassionate care to patients in the heart of the city. I am proud to welcome them to the city, and to have played a key role in bringing the Commonwealth's medical cannabis program to fruition, so that patients are able access critical treatments that enhance their lives."

It is no accident that this Beyond/Hello location is in the heart of the Gayborhood.

"Medical marijuana came out of the AIDS epidemic and Proposition 215 [in 1996, one of the earliest medical marijuana laws] out of California," said Huertis, noting the spiritual and political connection of medical cannabis to those who got the ball rolling.

"For anyone and everyone in Center City suffering and in need of medical cannabis, we're there for you."

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If convicted, the judge could decide to have Cosby taken into custody immediately or allow him to remain out of jail until sentencing. GETTY IMAGES

Cosby awaits verdict in second sexual assault trial

It is the second time that Cosby, now 80, has faced charges that he sexually assaulted Andrea Constand in 2004.

The case against Bill Cosby, the man once known as "America's Dad," is now in the hands of a jury charged with deciding whether the comedian is guilty of drugging and molesting a onetime friend at his Pennsylvania home more than a decade ago. His first trial in Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pennsylvania, ended with a deadlocked jury in July 2017.

But that mistrial came before last year's flood of sexual assault and harassment accusations against rich and powerful men. With the rise to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, the outcome of Cosby's second trial may hint at whether jurors are now more willing to believe women who say they were victims.

The seven-man, five-woman jury started deliberations at about 11 a.m. after Judge Steven O'Neill gave the panel instructions for reaching a verdict. A different 12-member jury was seated during the first trial.

"The evidence provided by Andrea Constand, if believed by you, is enough to find Mr. Cosby guilty without further corroboration," O'Neill said, referring to Cosby's accuser.

The comedian, who won the hearts of TV audiences as the beloved father figure on "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s, declined to testify on his own behalf in both trials. He has denied wrongdoing, saying any sexual contact he had was consensual.

The panel, made up 10 white jurors and two black jurors, will try to reach a unanimous decision on the guilt or innocence of one of the country's first African-American television stars. With his wholesome image and his outspoken advocacy of self-empowerment, the man known as "America's Dad" became a role model for people of all racial backgrounds.

Around 1 p.m., the jury returned to the courtroom to ask for the legal definition of "consent" in a sexual assault case.

"The evidence provided by Andrea Constand, if believed by you, is enough to find Mr. Cosby guilty without further corroboration."

Judge Steven O'Neill

"That cannot be answered," O'Neill told the jurors. "You have a legal definition of the crime. If that does not contain a definition of consent, the jury will decide what it means to them."

One question facing jurors is whether the alleged encounter could have occurred after Dec. 30, 2003. If not, Pennsylvania's 12-year statute of limitations would have run out before prosecutors brought criminal charges against Cosby on December 30, 2015.

During the trial, which began April 9, the defense team introduced evidence in a bid to raise doubts about whether Cosby was even in the Philadelphia area during the period in question.

Constand, 45, a former administrator of the women's basketball team at Temple University, Cosby's alma mater, testified that the comedian drugged and raped her in 2004. REUTERS

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Orbiting 101: The dating phenomenon that you knew about all along

Social media, with its connectivity and constant flow of information, makes it easy to orbit others. ISTOCK

The dating world comes with many things: heartbreak, awkward online profiles, one-night stands, cheap two-for-one deals at restaurants … the works. And even if you are happily in a relationship (guilty) or taking a break from the dating scene (understandable), you've heard of ghosting. As one Metro designer related to me, "It honestly sucks, and it's so baffling! Sometimes you really think things are going so well and everything is clicking, but then all of a sudden no answer." Sound familiar? Now there's a word for when you're ghosted but that ghoster still relentlessly creeps on your social feeds: orbiting.

Why does orbiting happen?

The same Metro coworker came to the conclusion that, like so many others, she's unknowingly been a victim of orbiting: "This guy ghosted me and then never unfollowed me, still liked my pics, and then all of a sudden, out of the blue, contacted me again explaining why he ghosted."

But she wasn't sure why it happened. "Was [it] that he still found me attractive but didn't want the pressure of dating [or] starting a relationship? Sheer laziness of making plans?"

Man Repeller writer Anna Iovine, who coined the term, says there are three reasons for orbiting.

Motive No. 1: Orbiting to exert power

Orbiters want you to know they're looking because keeping friendly ties with you gives them some sort of power. Or — and this may just be my cynicism talking — the power move is in place to manipulate you, to push *you* to contact *them*.

Motive No. 2: Orbiting by accident

Orbiters could be doing all this unintentionally, perhaps because they aren't aware that you can see them looking at your social media (i.e. Snapchat and Instagram stories).

Motive No. 3: Orbiting because of FOMO

Orbiters might also keep tabs on you in case they want to pursue you in the future.

"Part of this orbiting behavior is really related to the underlying FOMO [fear of missing out]," licensed professional clinical counselor Dr. Rachel O'Neill told Man Repeller. "There's a concern that if they were to completely eliminate contact with you, then they might miss the opportunity to reconnect with you later on."

Orbiting and social media

Social media, with its constant flow of information, makes it easy to orbit others.

As O'Neill said, "If circumstances change (for example, the orbiter decides they want to pursue a relationship), the orbiting behavior also offers a relatively easy entry to return back into your life (i.e., commenting on a post, DMing)."

SAM BRODSKY

WHAT IS ORBITING?

As Elite Daily noted, the term was created by Man Repeller writer Anna Iovine. She picked this word because, well, it describes the situation perfectly: they're "keeping you in their orbit." This means you're "close enough to see each other; far enough to never talk."

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Someone's getting pretty serious about Kanye West becoming president

The rapper tweeted "2024" and shortly afterward, campaign posters were spotted in cities around the country.

LENYON WHITAKER
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Kanye for president? At least that's what a recent tweet made by the hip-hop star has many of his fans and followers believing.

Kanye West has been very active lately on Twitter, often times giving himself high praises for his contributions to hip-hop, fashion and culture and teasing his fans about when he and other artists are releasing music.

In between the Kanye tweets about life, new projects he's working on and other random musings, he tweeted something Tuesday night that suggests he has a penchant for becoming the leader of the free world.

Kanye West simply tweeted "2024" and his fans quickly took that as he has plans to run for president of the United States.

Coincidently, in several cities including Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago, posters show his face with the slogan "Keep America Great" and the hashtag #KANYE2024" The posters appear to promote Kanye West's run for president in 2024.

The Kanye posters appear to be created by anonymous street artists who are not connected to Kanye West.

According to far-right, pro-Trump website The Gateway Pundit, the artists involved with placing the Kanye for president signs in different cities released a statement about West.

"Kanye West tore a hole in the fabric of reality this weekend by recognizing the wisdom of YouTuber Candace Owens

"We don't know if Kanye wants to be president. Trump has proved that it creates a huge amount of enemies."

Street artists, in a statement

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"Keep America Great" signs emerge in cities across the country to promote the artist's recent tweet that suggests he is running for president in 2024. GETTY IMAGES

in the most publicly unfiltered way possible, via Twitter," the artists wrote in a statement to the far-right website.

"Donald Trump has proved to all Americans that clarity of vision and the ability to persuade by Kanye is a watershed moment for this country," the artists added. "We don't know if Kanye wants to be president, Trump has proved that it creates a huge amount of enemies, but recognizing universal cultural truths is something that cultural icons are better at than politicians, it's how they build success."

While this all could be about a bunch of guerrilla artists who love Kanye West and are seeking to capitalize on his recent Tweets, the idea of Kanye West running for president of the United States isn't anything new.

During the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards, the rapper and designer took to the stage and announced his plans to run for president in 2020.

While it is uncertain if there ever will be a real Kanye for president campaign, the hip-hop artist, producer and clothing designer sure knows how to sway the attention in his direction on Twitter, which is something President Trump also seems to be very skilled at.

are much stronger assets for a president than political experience. Kanye appears to get this more than anyone else out there. Candace Owens is fighting for individual sovereignty, self-responsibility, and being recognized

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Could the rival Koreas declare peace after a 70-year standoff?

Expert on North and South leaders' meeting: "Both leaders need a diplomatic win."

FELIPE HERRERA AGUIRRE, MWN
letters@metro.us

North Korea's Kim Jong-un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in will hold a summit Friday, April 27 — only the third time in their history the two sides have met. The rare meeting that will happen at a village on the border between the two countries will culminate the rapprochement process kicked off during the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games in February after years of tensions.

Jenny Town, assistant director at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins SAIS and managing editor of 38 North website, specializes in analysis of the situation in North Korea, and explains what to expect from the summit and how it could influence the likelihood of talks between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un.

Why did it become possible for Kim Jong-un to meet both Moon and Trump?

Jenny Town: By declaring last year and in his New Year's speech victory in achieving his state nuclear force, Kim Jong Un likely now feels very confident in dealing with the international community, coming to the table in a position of strategic parity with the big powers. He can now also shift focus on his "Byungjin" policy of dual nuclear and economic development to the economic side of the equation, having achieved the nuclear goal, for which he does need to repair relations with the international community to facilitate economic development. He can also now make diplomatic concessions on the parts of his WMD program dealing with, for instance, technological development (testing regimes and infrastructure) and fissile material production, that won't fundamentally change the North's nuclear capabilities, leaving the most substantive parts for the latter part of the process.

So the hydrogen bomb has changed Kim's strategy?

The demonstration of the H-bomb (or at least high-yield boosted fission bomb) and the success-

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Jenny Town, assistant director at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins SAIS, specializes in analysis of the Korean situation. PROVIDED

ful flight test of the Hwasong-15 ICBM seem to have been the final pieces of Kim's definition of a credible nuclear deterrent against the United States, and enough for him to declare his program as complete. This essentially closed the door on the development phase of the nuclear deterrent — especially the need for testing and demonstration of technologies/capabilities — which then, in turn, opens the door more diplomatic postures.

How reliable is Kim?
You could ask this of any government, especially as the U.S. threatens to pull out of a number of international agreements. But essentially, this is why, in any agreement, there needs to be explicit detail and robust verification measures built in.

What can we expect from the meetings?
There is probably a lot of ground that could be covered in the summit meetings. No one is going to walk about with a comprehensive, detailed agreement. That's not the purpose of summits. But they should be seeking firm commitments to mutually agreeable goals, with a common understanding of timing and phasing going forward.

Will the Korean summit be successful?
I am concerned, especially with some of the hype about pre-summit discussions coming out of Seoul, that expectations of what can and should be accomplished in the summit meeting are unrealistically high. At the same time, I am more optimistic than most that the two will come to some kind of understanding on both the nuclear issue and a path toward normalizing relations can be found, given both leaders' need for a diplomatic win.

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Don't totally switch off after graduation — this summer's long enough to set yourself up for the next step AND enjoy yourself. ISTOCK

Summer break? Not really. Time to prep.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get ready to take your next big step. Don't blow it — but be sure to still have some fun.

KARL SAINT LUCY
letters@metro.us

High school is going by fast. College is just around the corner, and the summer is a huge, open field of possibility. You've been looking forward to bumming around on the couch watching "Riverdale" and snacking, but could your time be better spent on college preparation?

College prep doesn't have to be scary or boring. Catch these tips—you could end up having the best summer of your life.

Read, read, read

Read from your recommended list for next year, take a look at next year's textbooks, invest in cultivating speed-reading skills, because one thing's for sure — you're going to be completely overwhelmed by the pages you're meant to compute your first year in Big Kid School. Do anything you can to get your nose in some books, because you'll need to be practiced and disciplined at reading if you want to do well in college. Even reading for pleasure will keep your brain in top shape for learning.

Contribute to society

Deliver pizzas, file tax stuff for your mom, teach seniors about filters on SnapChat … there are endless fun ways to carve out a place for yourself in the big, wide world while you're waiting for school to start again. If you find yourself stumped, check out resources like Habitat for Humanity, TeenLife, or Philadelphia Youth Network to find out about volunteer opportunities in your area.

Spot school-supply deals

You'll have to start doing your own shopping pretty soon, and probably on a shoestring budget. Get in the habit of looking for bargains now — you'll get practice taking care of yourself and your parents will appreciate the help.

Take a summer course

One of the best ways to prep for college is to take a college course. Boston University's Summer Term program gives high school students the opportunity to "immerse [themselves] in college academics and campus life, open [their] minds to new subjects, bond with high school students from around the country and globe, and experience summer in beautiful Boston." But Boston University isn't the only college that has programs that offer the college experience, academic challenge, and new friends to high school students—Temple University, Boston Architectural College, and NYU have great programs worth checking out.

Hang out

College isn't all work and no play. You'll get to meet friends and start new adventures in college, but you still deserve to have fun with the friends you already have. Give yourself a break — go on a road trip, hop on a train,or walk down to your favorite fro-yo place. You don't have to spend money to cultivate friendship, either — plus, you'll be doing your own mental health a favor.

LIFESTYLE

Pack your biggest hat, racing fans! ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY FESTIVAL

10 Reasons to see the Kentucky Derby

While the Kentucky Derby lasts only two minutes, The Derby Festival is two weeks of gaudy hats and mint juleps.

Fodor's Travel

The fireworks
The annual Derby Festival kicks off with a bang, literally, at Thunder Over Louisville, the largest annual fireworks display in North America and the official start to the festival. Although the fireworks don't start until 9 p.m., most locals head to the Ohio River waterfront in the morning to enjoy a full day of festivities leading up to the show. Highlights include a spine-tingling air show throughout the day and every type of fried food imaginable.

Insider tip: The cheapest way to watch the fireworks is with a tent, a blanket, and some folding chairs right on the waterfront, along with thousands of other locals!

The eats
The food in Louisville is amazing year-round, but during Derby Season, it's especially good. For a fancy and traditional meal, head to the historic Jack Fry's or beautiful Buck's in Louisville's prettiest neighborhood, Old Louisville. Looking for something a little less fancy and a little more fried? The Chow Wagon serves up fairground fare on the waterfront during the Derby Festival. Can't decide what you want? Sample it all at Taste of Derby.

You can't leave town without trying Derby Pie. Though its inventors are famously obsessed with guarding their legally protected creation (they're usually only sold frozen in grocery stores), you can find imitations all over Louisville during Derby season. Just ask for something like chocolate pecan pie and wink a lot.

The drinks
Bourbon — the sweet, amber-colored, vanilla-scented whiskey — is as quintessentially Kentucky as the Derby. Try a taste at one of the many stops on the Urban Bourbon Trail, a collection of bars in Louisville which offer over 50 varieties of bourbon. Order the official drink of the Kentucky Derby, the mint julep; or try an Old Fashioned, the official cocktail of Louisville.

The tours
Just outside of Louisville is the Kentucky countryside, dotted with grazing horses and intersected with winding roads. Late spring turns the rolling Kentucky hills a lush, buzzing green, and there's no better time to take a day trip to tour a bourbon distillery. Woodford Reserve is the official bourbon of the Kentucky Derby. No time for a day trip? Head to Angel's Envy, a bourbon distillery located in the heart of downtown Louisville.

The fashion
Seersucker suits, cocktail dresses and ridiculously large, overly decorated hats: Derby Fashion is half the fun of Derby Season! Get inspired by the Macy's Spring Fashion Show, and then don your Sunday best and accessorize with one of the gaudiest, enormous, and beautiful hats you can find. You can pick up Derby-appropriate headwear at Revelry Gallery, a boutique featuring creations made by local Louisville artists. The Kentucky Derby Museum also sells a colorful array of Derby hats, which is a great excuse to visit the tracks and learn about the history of Churchill Downs.

The party
No Kentucky Derby is complete without a down-home Derby Party. If you're short on local friends, the next best thing is the Hillbilly Outfield, a two-day shindig complete with lawn games, camping and live music. You can also head to the waterfront during the week of Derby for Fest-A-Ville. The festival on the banks of the Ohio River includes live music, fried food, and a series of exciting events including Neigh-Maste, the Ken-Ducky Derby, and the Derby Pun-Writing Championship. Bonus points if you can guess which one of those events is made up.

The parade
The Pegasus Parade has marched through downtown Louisville since 1956, making it the Derby Festival's first and oldest event. You can catch the action from the dogwood-lined streets of Broadway. Keep an eye out for the Grand Marshal, a position served by celebrities and local heroes. Yes, that includes Louisville's own Muhammad Ali and Colonel Harland Sanders. If you came to this article looking for a reference to Kentucky Fried Chicken, that was it. There's only one.

The steamboats
The Ohio River, and the steamboats that traversed her muddy banks, are as much a part of Louisville's colorful history as the Derby. Relive that history on The Belle of Louisville, who has graced Louisville with her bright red paddle wheel since 1914. Today, the Belle of Louisville typically hosts guests for dinners, evening cruises and events. But during the Derby Festival, she gears up for

Meet Pegasus at this family-friendly parade.

The Great Steamboat Race. For over 50 years, two historic steamboats have raced down the Ohio River in the most exciting 20-or-so minutes in boat-racing. Board the Belle or her opponent, the Belle of Cincinnati, to experience the action front and center. Or, you can watch the race from the waterfront.

The celebrities
During Derby Week, celebrities from the A-list to the H-List flock to Derby City to party in style (or, in Jennifer Lawrence's case, to visit her hometown). Rub elbows at Unbridled Eve or at The Barnstable Brown Gala, the most star-studded event of the season. Hosted by the Doublemint Twins (yes, really), a ticket costs over $1,000. Not quite on a celebrity budget? Just pick a party and head to the venue to watch the red carpet festivities from outside!

Insider tip: Many celebrities will be staying at 21C Museum Hotel or The Brown Hotel, two of the most famous accommodations in Louisville. Stop by either for brunch and you might just catch a few hungover celebrities hiding behind oversized sunglasses.

The races
The most exciting two minutes of sports may be the main attraction of the season at Churchill Downs, but it's certainly not the only race. If you want to soak up the excitement of the races without the price tag (or the crowds), you can visit Churchill Downs all week long on a general admission ticket. The stakes are a lot lower, but the drinks are just as good — and there will still be plenty of fabulous giant hats. Most locals go to Thurby or the Kentucky Oaks rather than the actual Derby, anyway.

During the week leading up to the Derby, head to Churchill Downs early to catch the morning workouts during Dawn at the Downs. Afterwards, pop across the street to Wagner's Pharmacy for a bite to eat. Since 1922, this historic diner has been serving down-home meals and selling jockey silks.

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How to make (and keep) friends as an adult

Maintaining friendships as an adult is a lot harder than in junior high.

LUCY E. COUSINS
letters@metro.us

It's not that easy to attain #SquadGoals when you're a grown-up, especially after a move. ALL IMAGES FROM ISTOCK

From the moment we start grade school, we gravitate toward friendship groups and, for the most part, we make friends easily. As we grow older, we have less time, more commitments and are maybe — just a little — more picky.

However, friends are just as important to the mental health of big kids like you as they were to your younger self, says neuroscientist Dr. Sarah McKay. "Having strong social networks is important for adult life," says McKay. "Sometimes it just takes that one person who will be there for [you] no matter what — that makes the difference."

So, how can I make new friends?

According to McKay it's not a life about "me," it's a life about "we." But without the confines of the schoolyard, making friends as an adult can be challenging and discouraging.

A great way to meet people, though, is through your current friendships. Hosting events when your friends need to bring two of their friends along is a great way to widen your circle. Or asking a friend to set you up on a friendship blind date in your hometown or when you go traveling.

If you're after "fresh meat," meeting potential friends over common ground can be helpful. Love being creative? Sign up for an art class. Live for playing ball? Join a local league. The key to meeting friends as an adult is to put yourself out there so you can connect with people who you share something in common with.[

How can I break up with a friend?

Sometimes friends become a negative influence in your life. They deplete your energy and change your mood. How do you know if you have a toxic friend? It usually follows the tune of someone who's exhausting to be around, who doesn't ask many questions about you, who complains about their other friends and who, when they leave, makes you feel slightly relieved.

There are generally three ways to deal with this situation as an adult. One is to let the friendship fade by not instigating meet ups (this approach is best if both people seems to be on the same page about the friendship — then it becomes a mutual ghosting).

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The second is to set new boundaries. Maybe it's the subjects you shouldn't talk about together as they depress you or the fact that your friend shouldn't text you 10 times a day.

This option is good for if you want to keep the friendship in tact to some degree.

Or you could decide the friendship isn't worth saving. And the best way to deal with that is to be honest with your friend. Don't make out that you're too busy for the friendship; instead explain your case, thank them for the time you've spent together and wish them good luck in the future.

This approach is the hardest, especially as some friends may not take it well, but at the end of the day, a friendship is like a divided highway: It goes both ways.

Why don't I see my friends as much?

One of the hardest parts of being an adult is going from seeing your friends every day at school to every so often as an adult. Life often gets in the way, particularly when friends start stressful jobs, get serious partners or start to have a family.

This can be especially challenging if you're the one who's ahead, or if you're the one behind your friends in these developments. Is everyone loved up except you? Are you the first to have children in your group?

When this happens, the mature thing to do is home in on who your true friends are. They're usually the ones who, even if you don't see them for a while, click with you straight away when you catch up with them.

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THINGS TO DO

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

Chef Paras Shah currently focuses on French bistro fare at Chez Ben. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

Andy Dickerson of Teresa's Next Door

Did someone say meatball soup?

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Andy Dickerson is the chef and owner of Teresa's Next Door, a popular gastropub located just outside of Philadelphia in Wayne. Despite being in the suburbs, Dickerson knows quite a bit about the Philly food scene, having lived in the area his whole life.

He got his start selling produce in local farmers markets, and then found himself delivering pizzas in college.

"I've always loved food, and the pace of the industry is exciting," he says. "We all gotta eat, so let's do it better."

When he's not busy working, Dickerson loves traveling.

"Nothing compares to the experience and perspective you can gain from travel," he says. "Travel has helped shape our restaurants and allows me to see the world through others' experiences."

Dickerson, who also owns Teresa's Cafe, has quite the international selection of Philly food picks for this edition of "Eat Like an Insider." He tells us about a Lebanese dish that resembles pizza, as well as where to go for the ultimate meatball soup.

Best late night meal?
Monk's Cafe (264 S. 16th St.) serves their full menu until 1 a.m., so I can indulge on braised veal cheeks and fried frog legs after midnight. Sometimes for mussels and frites, other times the boudin blanc sandwich, and every so often when its been a long day drinking, I hit the chicken fingers hard. Monk's always has an outstanding beer list to pair with your meal anytime of day. It's definitely a regular go-to late night spot to finish out a night in Philly.

Best meal under $10?
Nan Zhou Hand Drawn Noodle House (1022 Race St.). Their house special meatball soup with hand drawn noodles is always loaded with flavor and satiates my soup noodle craving every time.

Best hidden food gem?
Stock (308 E. Girard Ave.). It isn't really hidden, but it's certainly a tiny little foodie gem. Since my first visit, I've never been let down. They're constantly evolving their flavor and complexity by bringing innovative dishes from Southeast Asia.

Best place to dine alone?
Standard Tap (901 N. 2nd St.). Sit down at the bar and have a fresh local beer and Standard Burger to start. Unless you sit in a corner facing the wall, you won't be alone for long very long. The Tap is always bustling with good folk that are sure to bend your ear.

Place you always take or recommend for out-of-towners?
Zahav (237 St. James Pl.), hands down — when you can get a table, that is. The food

Teresa's Next Door (or "TND") has been a go-to for gastropub fare since 2007.

at Zahav never lets you down and their service is second to none. I could eat the salatim and hummus every day, but the grilled duck hearts in all of their iterations over the years may be my favorite — although I always have a hankering for the roasted leg of lamb, too. It's hard to say what's best, since I've only ever ordered the full tasting menu each and every visit. Yes, please, we will take everything.

Go-to date spot?
Vernick Food and Drink (2031 Walnut St.). Consistently the best food in Center City — from the toasts and the raw stuff to

veggies and the big plates — everything is delicious, well crafted and conceived. The uni with warm scrambled eggs combines two lush textures and is a joy to stir up and devour. Not only is it great food, but the cocktails are first rate along side a well-curated wine list and good craft beer, too.

Best place to catch up with friends?
Jose Pistola's (263 S. 15th St.) is the best place to catch up with friends without ever planning it. Anyone in the food and beverage industry is sure to run into friends and colleagues there whether it be lunch time, happy hour and certainly late night with Joe Gunn. Jose's is always good times, good people and good fun. My go-to shareable grub is spicy tuna guacamole.

Most Instagrammable restaurant?
Suraya (1528 Frankford Ave.) is super Instagrammable, from the elegant decor to the artful food. The man'oushe lahm bi-ajeen is my favorite Lebanese flatbread, as I'm always drawn to all things that resemble pizza.

Teresa's Next Door is located at 126 North Wayne Ave., Wayne

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FOOD & DRINK

Flavors on the Avenue

The annual street festival on the avenue, featuring more than 24 restaurants and 100 vendors, is a sort of unofficial ushering-in of spring for the avenue's warm-weather-months lineup of events. Among the attractions for Flavors: a Founders Brewing Co. Tasting Tent, food that's affordably priced at $3 to $6, on average, and a variety of live music and kid-friendly activities. Retailers like South Fellini and Tildie's Toy Box also take to the streets for the festivities.
April 29, 11 a.m.
East Passyunk Avenue
visiteastpassyunk.com
Pay as you go

Shuck Fest

More than just a shucking competition — though that is the main draw — this oyster celebration includes tastings with farmers from Jersey, plenty of food specials and oyster-shucking lessons. The winner of the 2 p.m. competition walks away with a $200 cash prize.
April 29, 12 p.m.
Oyster House, 1516 Sansom St.
oysterhousephilly.com, $15

COMEDY

Brad Williams

Raunchy comedian Brad Williams has appeared on "Comedy Underground," "The Tonight Show," "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and has hosted his own comedy special, "Fun Size," on Showtime. He also hosts his own podcast.
Through April 28
Helium Comedy Club
2031 Sansom St.
philadelphia.heliumcomedy.com, $18

FESTIVALS

Philly Tech Week

Philly Tech Week kicks off another year with this eighth-annual shindig at Schmidt's Commons, hosting an app arcade, light bites and more. Video game demos will be available from local companies like Gossamer Games.
April 27, 5 p.m.
The Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
2018.phillytechweek.com
Pay as you go

Green Festival

Now in its 10th year, the Collingswood Green Festival brings together local experts and advocates to educate the public about sustainability, while also vending sustainably grown foods, plants and trees, and showcasing works of art made from recycled materials. Compost bins and rain barrels are discounted to 50 percent off retail prices.
April 28, 9 a.m.
Irvin and Atlantic avenues, Collingswood
collingswood.com
Free

SHOPPING

Ardmore Antique & Vintage Market

Downtown Ardmore transforms into a shopping metropolis for the day, with the arrival of Philadelphia Flea Markets—bringing with it antique and vintage vendors ranging from T2C's midcentury-modern furniture to Nostalgia Collection's vintage costume jewelry. There will also be music, crafts and free coffee and cake.
April 29, 8 a.m.
Rittenhouse Place, 44 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore
destinationardmore.com, pay as you go

Philadelphia Beard Festival

While there will be beard grooming on the grounds with plenty of product to purchase, the real allure of this annual festival is the axe-throwing, spirit tastings, beard speed dating and, of course, beard contest. VIP tickets nab a "cigar and whiskey" experience, courtesy of Eight Oaks Craft Distillery and thetravelingtobacconist.com.
April 29, 12 p.m.
Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
philadelphiabeardfest.com, $20

SHOPPING

Maker's Market

Located on the north end of the plaza between Urban Village and Wahlburger's, the market resurfaces for another season of featured artists, crafters, farmers and other artisans. Among the bunch: Monster Joe's Sauces, Vellum St. Soap Co. and Piggyback Treats Co. A libations garden accompanies the market.
April 28, 10 a.m.
Schmidt's Commons
1001 N. Second St.
theschmidtscommons.com
Pay as you go

Philadelphia Punk Rock Flea Market

Two-hundred vendors make up this antique bazaar, selling T-shirts, knick-knacks, records, art and, as promised by the event, "weird old punk stuff." While shopping, nosh on eats from Kung Fu Hoagies, the Dive Bar Cart and Dr. Wutzit's Wonder Balls.
April 28 through April 29, 10 a.m.
The Armory
22 S. 23rd St.
phillyprfm.com, $3

STYLE

Spring Fashion Show

Orlando Caquias and D. Nicole Talent join to launch a fashion line and talent agency, kicking off the venture with a fashion show inside aMuse's new event space. Stick around after to score drink specials with a free wristband.
April 28, 8 p.m.
aMuse Restaurant
1421 Arch St.

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TICKETS AT WORLDCAFELIVE.COM

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THEATER

"Splinter and Crack"

The debut full-length play by Juniper Productions follows the troubled Rosemary, who struggles to let go of her past to pave a future with her daughter and granddaughter. The play is staged in the immense and historic 35,000-square-foot Hamilton Studios building in Spring Arts.
Through May 13,
Hamilton Studios,
1025 Hamilton St.
juniper-productions.ticketleap.com, $30

"Peter and the Starcatcher"

Directed by Barrymore Award-winner Matthew Decker, "Peter and the Starcatcher" is an origin story of Peter Pan — how 13-year-old Molly Aster helped shape him into the popular and beloved hero. The adventure features 10 actors and musicians, with singing mermaids and a shipwreck, using minimal props and costumes.
Through May 20
Theatre Horizon
401 DeKalb St., Norristown
theatrehorizon.org, $45

LGBT

ICandy Seventh Anniversary Party

Featuring Ginger Minj from "RuPaul's Drag Race" as the headliner, this year's annual soiree also offers $6 Jack Daniels and Stoli drinks for the occasion — plus, hours of sweaty close-quarters dancing, to be sure.
April 28, 10 p.m.
ICandy, 254 S. 12th St.
clubicandy.com, Pay as you go

Philadelphia Black Pride Block Party

Happening just outside Franky Bradley's, Presidential Parties and Simply Christopher present this DJ'd all-day block party. No-frills, just fun.
April 29,
13th and Chancellor streets
phillyblackpride.org,
Pay as you go BRANDON BAKER

MUSIC

Reba McEntire

Back by popular demand, Reba McEntire — fresh off her hosting duties at the Academy of Country Music Awards — returns to Parx to perform hits like "Fancy," "Somebody," "And Still" and more. Sitcom fans will even get a performance of the infectious theme "I'm a Survivor."
April 27, 7 p.m.
Parx Casino, 2999 Street Road
parxcasino.com/xcitecenter, $75

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Why 'Carmen' is more relevant than ever

SHERVIN LAINE

We interview leading lady Daniela Mack ahead of Opera Philadelphia's final production of the season.

JENNIFER LOGUE
jennifer.logue@metro.us

On Thursday, April 27, Opera Philadelphia premieres its production of "Carmen" at the Academy of Music. A modernized take on one of the most popular operas of all time, director Paul Curran sets the production in the 1950s in an unnamed town that bears resemblance to Havana, Miami or perhaps Seville in Spain.

Daniela Mack, who opened Opera Philadelphia's 2017-2018 season with the lead role in "Elizabeth Cree," takes center stage once again as the fiery Carmen.

"She's a woman out of time and definitely who I would consider a feminist," Mack says. "She's not content to live in the situation she finds herself. She lives on the edge, wants something different and isn't concerned what people think of her."

Carmen is at the center of a love triangle between military man Don José (Evan LeRoy Johnson) and bullfighter Escamillo (Adrian Timpau).

"It's a story about passion, deceit and intrigue," Mack says. "Don José becomes obsessed with her and wants to possess her."

In an effort to not spoil the ending for "Carmen" newbies, we'll leave further plot discussion for later, but we'll bet you're already acquainted with some of the music.

The set is almost as evocative as the iconic music. GARY MCCANN

"It's one of my fave scores," Mack says. "It's so atmospheric. It really transports you to the place, and it's stood the test of time — permeating its way into pop culture in so many ways. Bizet used a lot of dance rhythms — it's just catchy!"

While "Carmen" eventually became an iconic opera with unforgettable music, it initially wasn't a success.

"When it opened it was so scandalous, and people were expecting to see stories of kings and gods," says Mack. "They didn't think they were going to see a story about common people — especially not a common woman who wasn't demure or upper class, who was free in her sexuality. That was a big no-no back then."

Today, however, Mack believes Carmen's character is more relevant than ever, especially in the wake of movements like #MeToo.

"Carmen being a fighter, not content to just accept that she'll be abused in many ways, like all the women around her — that's apropos of what's going on today," she says. "That's why Paul [the director] updated it to be more modern. In the production meeting, he was talking about how women had to take over men's jobs during World War II, while they were off fighting. When the war ended, the men moved back but the dynamic was changed forever."

Daniela Mack stars in Opera Philadelphia's production of "Carmen." SHERVIN LAINEZ

In Opera Philadelphia's reimagined production, Carmen works in a cigarette factory — a new set of circumstances for a character Mack has played many times before.

"This will be my fourth time playing Carmen," she says. "I have a long history with the piece. I was a chorus girl in 'Carmen.' I did a condensed version in graduate school. She's amazing — such a strong, independent woman."

When it comes to working in Philadelphia, Mack certainly feels the love.

"It's a great city. I love the company," she says. "They do really innovative and important work, and it's an incredible gift for me that they brought me back for two leading female characters in this season. I'm very fortunate to have that."

"Carmen" will be performed at the Academy of Music from April 27 through May 6. For more information, visit: operaphila.org.

Eagles 2018 full mock draft: Three likely scenarios

Will the Eagles trade up, trade down or stand pat Thursday?

LUKE MILLER
sports@metro.us

It's been a long time coming, but the NFL Draft is here. Waiting through this off-season has been more bearable than usual for Eagles fans, mostly thanks to the good vibes that come with being Super Bowl Champions. It's good news too, because they'll have to wait through the entire first round before the Eagles take the podium to announce the 32nd selection. Or, if many predictions are proved right and the Eagles trade back to gain picks on the second day, even longer.

Here are three possible moves to be made this weekend:

Scenario 1: Stand pat

Round 1, Pick 32: Justin Reid, S, Stanford
Round 4, Pick 130: Royce Freeman, RB, Oregon
Round 4, Pick 132: Daurice Fountain, WR, Northern Iowa
Round 5, Pick 169: Durham Smythe, TE, Notre Dame
Round 6, Pick 206: Tremon Smith, CB, Central Arkansas
Round 7, Pick 250: Ryan Anderson, P, Rutgers

Reid seems likely to be available at the end of the first round, and is a player heavily connected to the Eagles. His brother is former 49ers Pro Bowl safety Eric Reid, and he'd be both an excellent immediate replacement for Corey Graham as a third safety and the future at the position for Philadelphia.

Freeman is one of several middle-round backs the Eagles have taken a look at this off-season, and while this may be a bit late for him to go, it's difficult predicting the order these rbs will go after the first few. He's a complete back with power that would step into LeGarrette Blount's role in the rotation and would make Jay Ajayi's possible departure after this season easier to live with. Miami's Mark Walton and North Carolina State's Nyheim Hines are two other backs in play at this stage.

Smythe has been used primarily as a blocking tight end at Notre Dame, something the Eagles are missing with Brent Celek gone. Stanford's Dalton Schultz is another option in the same vein, and his fellow alumni Zach Ertz is pulling for him. Smith was a shutdown corner at a small school whose testing suggests he can hang in the big leagues.

Scenario 2: Trade down

Round 2, Pick 40: Maurice Hurst, DT, Michigan
Round 3, Pick 99: Duke Dawson, CB, Florida
Round 4, Pick 130: Marcus Allen, S, Penn State
Round 4, Pick 132: Chris Herndon, TE, Miami
Round 5, Pick 169: Tony Adams, G, NC State
Round 7, Pick 250: Javon Wims, WR, Georgia

Here the Eagles get second and third round selections from Denver in exchange for the 32nd pick and their sixth rounder. Denver has two third round picks, and they've been mentioned as a willing trade partner at the top of the first round already. If they aren't chasing a quarterback at the fifth pick, maybe they'll trade back into the first round for one that falls.

Where Hurst goes is anyone's guess at the moment. A possible first-round selection, Todd McShay has recently said he could fall as far as day three after an irregular EKG at the combine. Each year there are players that experience an unexpected fall, but all it takes is one team. If the Eagles are confident in Hurst's health, he'd be excellent value here. Dawson is one of the corners in this draft most prepared to come in and compete for a slot role and a hard hitter.

Allen fills the same role as Reid, but would be best put to use in the box from day one. Herndon is a better receiving prospect at tight end than Smythe or Schultz, and just had his best season in Miami. Wims is a raw receiving prospect - it's not a role the Eagles need an immediate contributor in.

Scenario 3: Trade up

Round 1, Pick 27: Leighton Vander Esch, LB, Boise State
Round 4, Pick 132: Brandon Parker, T, North Carolina A&T
Round 6, Pick 206: Akrum Wadley, RB, Iowa
Round 7, Pick 250: Damon Webb, S, Ohio State

A linebacker like Kyle Vander Esh would be a perfect snag in Round 1. GETTY IMAGES

And now for the much less likely trade scenario: the Eagles move up. They've done it often in the past and it's pretty easy to argue that it's worked out better than their trades down. But the capital involved is something they just don't have this year. Using Draft TEK's Trade Value Chart it costs one of the Eagles' fourth round picks and a fifth just to give the Saints equal value and move up five spots to jump ahead of the Steelers and take a player both Pennsylvania teams have been linked to: Vander Esch.

Linebacker isn't a pressing need for the Eagles, but Vander Esch is the rare player at that position they seem to value highly, and if he started to fall down the board they could make a move and maybe even recoup one of the assets lost in this trade by sending Mychal Kendricks elsewhere later in the draft.

They only have a few picks left to make in this projection. Parker is a tackle with NFL pedigree despite his small school. Wadley offers the same help at running back as some of the above players, and also comes ready to contribute as a returner. Webb is a versatile tool for the secondary.

Kelce's gives look inside epic Super Bowl parade speech

A year ago, Jason Kelce was the subject of trade rumors. He was the subject of rumors of getting cut by the Eagles due to his favorable contract structure. He was being called overrated on Philly talk radio and even he himself was questioning whether he was good enough to keep playing in the NFL.

In February, Kelce became a legend. His play on the field spoke for itself in 2017-18 as he was selected first team All-Pro for the first time in his career. He was the offensive line's field general as the Birds won their first Super Bowl ever over the hated Patriots. And then, at the tail end of the biggest parade the city of Philadelphia has ever seen, Kelce secured his place among the greats in Philly sports cultural lure.

Jason Kelce's offensive line should get a boost from the return of injured Jason Peters. GETTY IMAGES

In the speech, Kelce recounted all the criticisms and doubts the public and NFL experts had about the Eagles. That Jason Peters was too old, that Carson Wentz didn't go to a Division I school, that Bradon Brooks had anxiety and Nelson Agholor can't catch. Player by player, Kelce put voice to thought, even saying that Doug Pederson was the "least qualified coach" in the NFL, as Mike Lombardi said before the 2017 season.

"Everybody wonders why we're so mean" Kelce said in the F-bomb laden speech this past winter. "Everybody wonders why the Philadelphia Eagles' aren't the nicest fans. If I don't eat breakfast, I'm f–ing pissed off."

On Tuesday the offensive lineman held back tears looking back at the most rewarding moment of his career.

"The whole speech was the realization of myself stepping back and seeing that I wasn't the only one that overcame something," Kelce said. "Literally, everybody has pushed through and persevered through some kind of adversity. That was the mantra of the whole season. It was something that came from a burning place inside that had been ingrained through a lot of hard work, failures, and success throughout my entire career. The same thing with this city and the entire organization."

Ever since the speech, Kelce's life hasn't been the same. He's been asked to pose in pictures everywhere he's gone. He's been asked to be in many Eagles' fans weddings. After his speech, Kelce has built enough love and reverence that he could probably be elected mayor of Philadelphia without much opposition.

Kelce got married last weekend, and he says his brother Travis — a tight end for the Chiefs — did a pretty good job of his own speech as Jason's best man.

With the ride of his life behind him, settled down with his new wife, Kelce is excited to focus on football and continuing to succeed in a football loving city that loves Kelce almost as much.. EVAN MACY

Flyers 2017-18 season in review:

The Flyers have a bright future but finished with a bitter taste in their mouths.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

The Flyers locker room was somber and quiet, as expected, on Sunday after the team was eliminated by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

However, each of the half-dozen or so players, as well as the head coach, who were paraded in front of a giant throng of reporters, used the same brush to paint a picture of the overall direction of the organization: They all felt the future is bright.

It's hard to argue with them.

The Flyers finished with 10 more points than last year, qualified for the playoffs after a one-year hiatus, watched veterans enjoy career years, and received major contributions from first- and second-year players. The Flyers feel they have laid the foundation for success in the years to come.

Before we move on to the offseason and next year, though, let's take one last quick look back at the highs and lows during the 2017-2018 campaign.

The Highs

The postseason

Although they were bounced in six games by the two-time defending champs, the experience the young guys gained and the lessons learned will be invaluable in future playoff series.

The breakout season

Sean Couturier emerged from the shadows of the third line to prove he can center the first line and is one of the team leaders. He set career-highs in goals (31), points (76), and plus-minus (plus-34) and is a finalist for the Selke Trophy, handed out to the league's best defensive forward. He also scored the game-winning goal in Game 5 and had a hat trick in Game 6 against the Penguins despite playing with a torn MCL.

Travis Konecny, in his second season, finished with 24 goals and showed 30-goal potential after netting 11 as a rookie.

The MVP season

After four-straight years of declining statistics, Claude Giroux had 102 points and should receive serious MVP consideration. The captain also gets credit for keeping the team together during a 10-game losing streak (see below) early in the season.

The rookie season

It was a year of the kids as the Flyers dressed seven rookies. Of the class, Nolan Patrick and Travis Sanheim look like future stars while Robert Hagg projects as top-four defenseman.

The losing streak

The Flyers endured a 10-game winless streak (0-5-5) that covered November and December. Late in the skid during a home game, the crowd repeatedly chanted, "Fire Hakstol" and the team held a closed-door meeting.

The special teams

The power play was ranked a pedestrian 15th in the league and completely disappeared in the playoffs. The penalty kill, ranked 29th, was even worse and continuously was exposed against Pittsburgh.

"As a group I think you saw a ton of guys move in the right direction. You always want development to be this smooth path and this smooth climb. It doesn't work that way. It's kind of a jagged climb."
Flyers head coach Dave Hakstol

The Lows

The goalie carousel

Due to injuries and inconsistent play, coach Dave Hakstol was forced to use four different goalies dur-

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Recounting highs, lows

The Flyers, like the Sixers and Phillies, are building something. Several flashes of brilliance in 2017-18 will provide confidence going forward. GETTY IMAGES

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Penn
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- Overweight
- Interested in losing weight AND
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If interested, please call: (215) 746-5030 for the Be WISE Study

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Penn
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Penn Medicine
Center for Weight and Eating Disorders

Time to eat!

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Doctors at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania are studying the influence of the timing of eating on weight and metabolism.

We are seeking volunteers for a research study.
You may qualify to participate if you are:

- Overweight
- Between the ages of 21 and 50 years old
- Non-smoking
- Not working a night shift
- Not going to bed regularly after midnight or waking up regularly after 9:00 am
- Willing to eat food provided by the study for up to 16 weeks

Volunteers will be compensated for their participation.

For more information, contact Maddie
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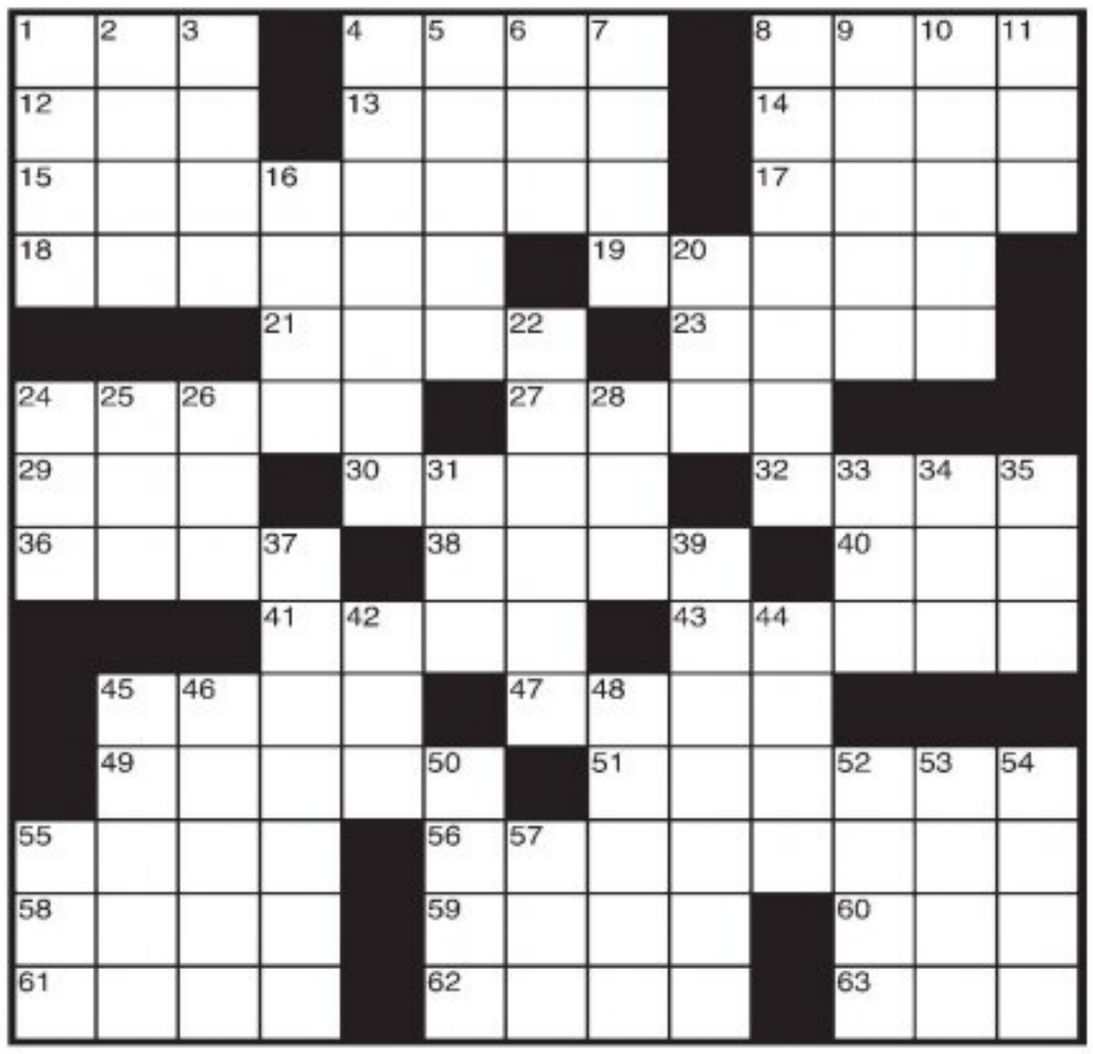
ACROSS

1 Funny-peculiar
4 Stadium shape
8 "Motorcycle –"
12 Jazz's -- Winding
13 First name in horror
14 Absolutely thrilled
15 Ignored a trash can
17 – monster
18 Mineral analyses
19 Investment return
21 Aloha, in Rome
23 Rightmost column
24 Yellowstone range
27 Sure thing
29 Charlotte of "Bananas"
30 Back talk
32 Fermi split it
36 Festive log
38 Actress – Moreno
40 Paddle
41 Now, to Caesar
43 Paycheck periods
45 Waistcoat
47 Mild oath
49 Hidden
51 Bloke's "You bet!" (hyph.)
55 Is, in Avila
56 Imposing estates
58 Stratum
59 Spice or ancient weapon
60 AAA suggestion
61 Raison d'–
62 Answered a judge
63 Groaner, maybe

DOWN

1 Tulsa's st.
2 Rostrum
3 Morse clicks
4 Paying heed
5 Vice --
6 Stout
7 Countess's title
8 Vivid color
9 Nimble
10 Shapes clay
11 Turkish honorific
16 Cantina fare
20 Gold Medal org.
22 Something to run for
24 Make an effort
25 Water, in France
26 Util. bill
28 Near the stern
31 Large vase
33 Sock filler
34 Acorn producer
35 "– Doubtfire"
37 Trap
39 Was in store for
42 All-purpose truck
44 Brink
45 Frequent
46 Use the door
48 Coup de –
50 Mounties: Abbr.
52 Kithara kin
53 Skirt for Fonteyn
54 Plow pair
55 Bastille Day season
57 "2001" computer



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		5			3			1
1		2				9		
7	3						2	8
9				8		4	5	
3								9
	8	6		9				3
2	5						1	4
		1				3		7
4			8			2		

hard

	9	6	8		3			
1	8					4		2
				6				
		4	6				9	7
9			3		8			4
3	7				9	5		
				8				
7		1					4	8
			5		4	9	7	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Keep your feelings tucked away someplace safe. Someone will take advantage of you if you share too much information. Emotional deception is apparent among your peers.

Taurus Collaborate with people who have something unique to offer. Getting a different perspective on what you are trying to accomplish will bring good results.

Gemini Learn from your mistakes. Let your charm and playful attitude take care of anyone who doubts you. A makeover will bring about unexpected compliments.

Cancer Make some interesting changes at home that will encourage you to take up a new hobby or turn a current interest into something that could potentially bring in extra cash.

Leo Learn by watching others. Silence is golden when you aren't familiar with certain protocols. Don't feel you must pay for others to make a good impression.

Virgo Interaction and participation will get you where you want to be. Your contributions will put you in the running for a better position as well as bring you greater popularity.

Libra Initiate changes that will make you feel good about your appearance and what you have to offer. A makeover, self-help seminar or retreat will change the way you live your life.

Scorpio Partnerships, group involvement and taking a stand against something that bothers you should be your focus. Speak passionately about what you want.

Sagittarius Discussions with the people you live or work with will help you sort through some of the problems you face. Learn from someone who has an interesting suggestion.

Capricorn Money or helpful suggestions will come from an unexpected source. Listen to what others have experienced, and explore the possibility of duplicating the same success.

Aquarius Emotional deception is apparent. Be honest with yourself as well as your partner regarding how you feel, what you want and what you are willing to do.

Pisces A partnership will develop if you get involved in an event, activity or cause that interests you. Your input and energy will attract positive people. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

S	O	U	P	■	Y	A	K	■	P	A	D	S		
O	M	N	I	■	O	B	I	■	E	L	I	A		
L	A	D	E	■	D	E	M	A	N	D	E	D		
■	R	O	B	B	E	D	■	S	P	A	M	■		
■	■	■	A	O	L	■	R	I	A	■	■	■		
B	E	L	L	Y	■	F	E	A	L	T	Y	■		
A	X	E	D	■	B	R	A	N	■	E	A	R		
Y	E	N	■	R	O	A	D	■	R	A	R	E		
■	C	O	C	O	O	N	■	W	E	L	D	S		
■	■	■	Y	U	K	■	V	E	G	■	■	■		
■	P	U	C	E	■	R	E	B	A	T	E	■		
B	U	L	L	S	E	Y	E	■	L	U	A	U		
E	R	N	E	■	R	A	P	■	I	N	S	T		
E	R	A	S	■	R	N	S	■	A	S	E	A		

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Because if you call us now, you can get your more energy-efficient windows installed and enjoy a **more comfortable home right away.**

Our exclusive High-Performance™ Low E-4® SmartSun™ glass is **up to 70% more energy efficient†. It's engineered to make your home more comfortable in the colder and warmer months.**

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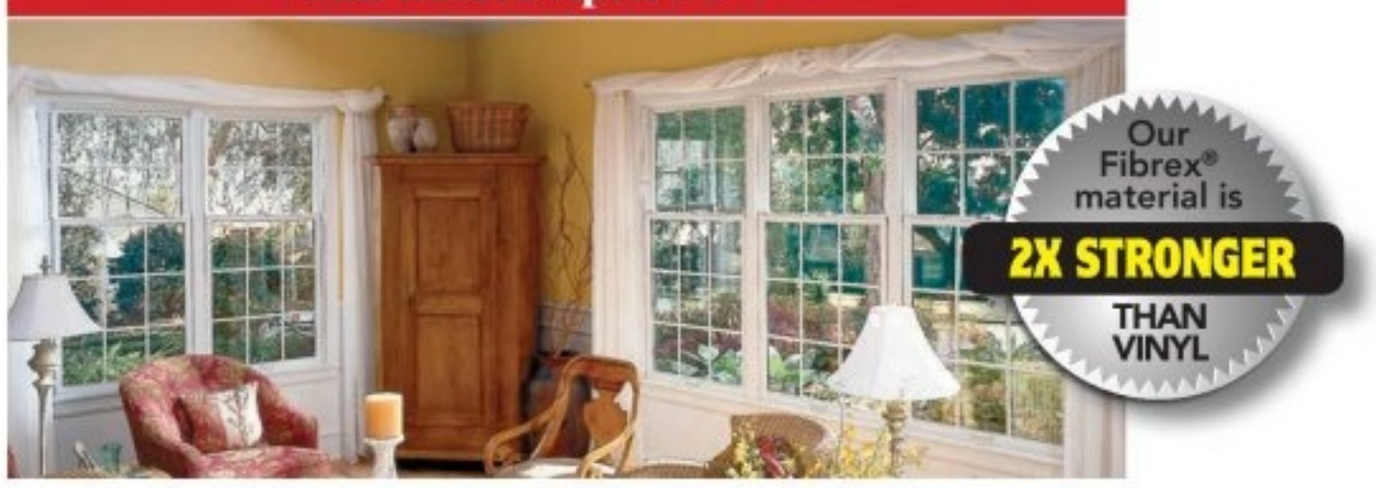

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1. Fibrex® Material

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2. Unique Look

Our window has the **elegant look and strength of a wood window,** but our Fibrex material doesn't demand the same maintenance of wood.*

3. Accountability

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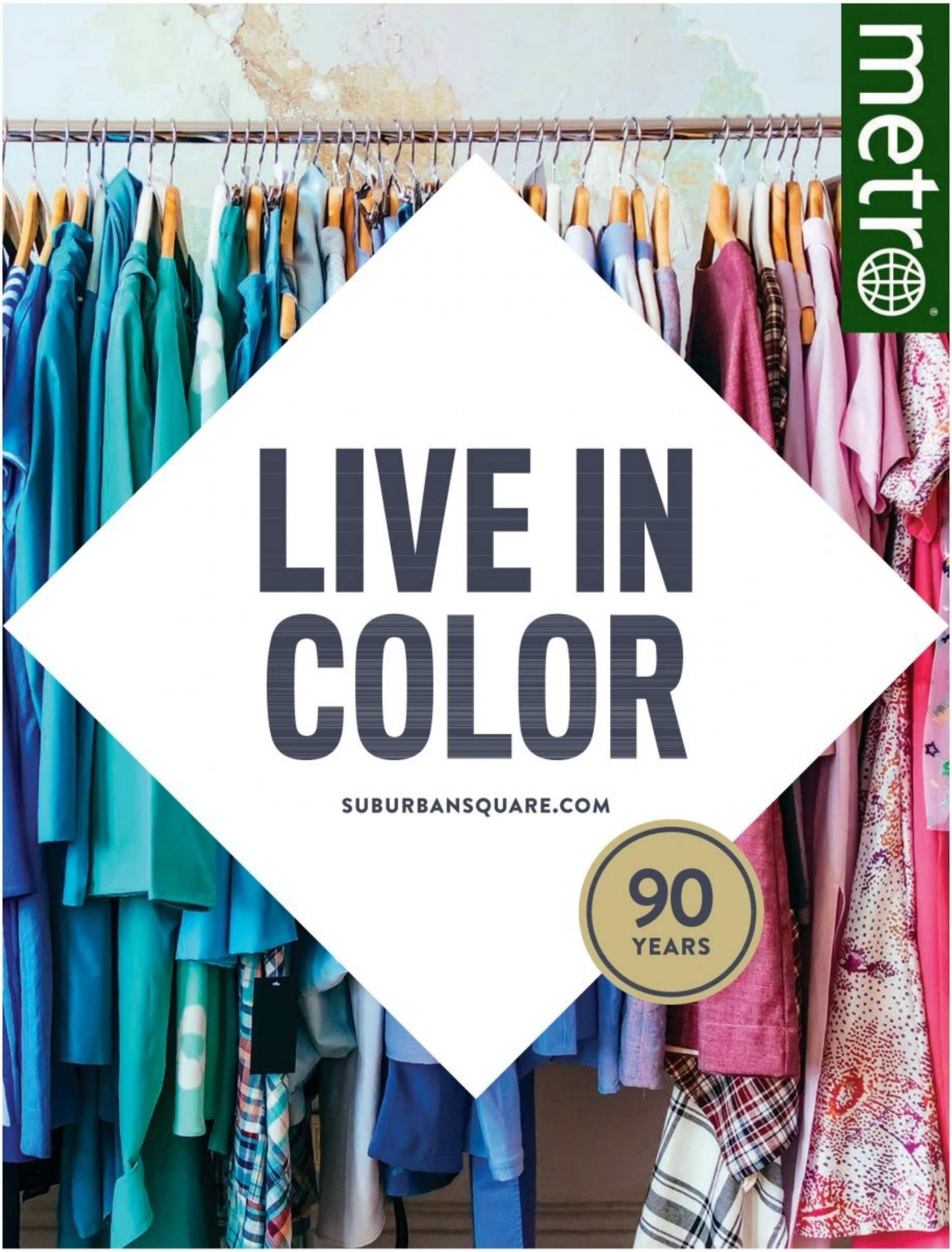
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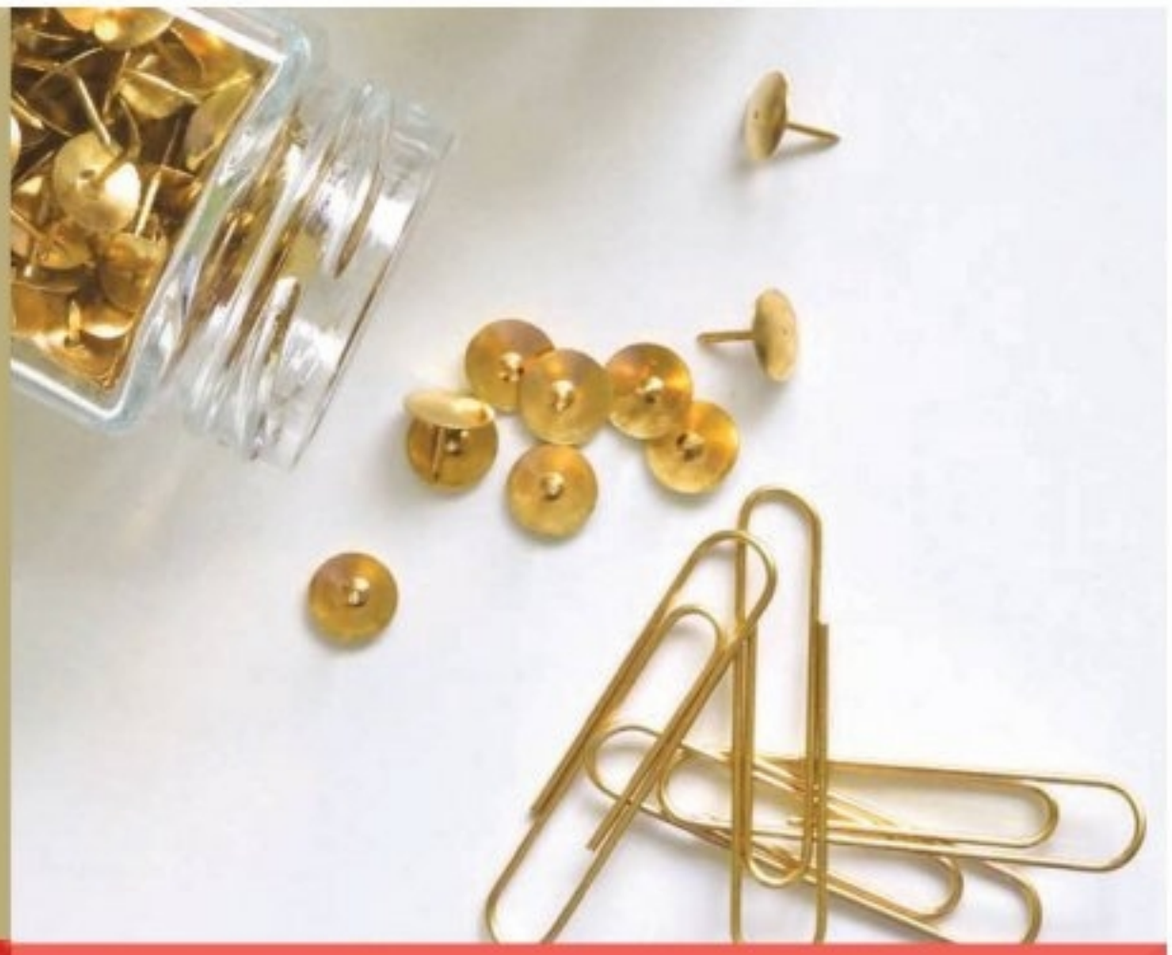

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